

## Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 H-02 L-03 TRSE-00 ABF-01 USIA-06

/021 W

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R 170949Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9409

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, LI

SUBJ: PORT OF MONROVIA AGREEMENT

REF: A) STATE 54605 B) STATE 543376 C) MONROVIA 1492

1. EMBASSY CONFUSED BY APPARENT AMBIGUITY IN REFTELS A AND B RECEIVED MARCH 6. FROM FORMER, EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT DEPARTMENT BELIEVES USECF/L AND ITS PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE FOR TIME BEING. EMBASSY CONCURS WITH THIS VIEW. HOWEVER, REFTEL B SEEMS TO DENOTE DEPARTMENT'S INTENTION TO RAPIDLY PHASE OUT USECF/L.

2. EMBASSY ALSO UNCLEAR REGARDING STATEMENT CONTAINED IN REFTEL A ON OBTAINING VIEWS OF GOL CONCERNING FUTURE ROLE OF FOUNDATION UNDER SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED BUDGET. 1964 AGREEMENT SETTING UP USECF/L REQUIRES USG SPEND SUM IN LIBERIA FOR EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROJECTS EQUAL TO GOL AMORTIZATION IN PAYMENTS IN PORT OF MONROVIA LOAN. GOL UNLIKELY TO CHANGE IN THIS FORMULA.

3. EMBASSY FULLY CONCURS WITH DEPARTMENT VIEW THAT NEW ARRANGEMENT WOULD ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR SELECTING DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC PROJECTS FOR REST OF USE OF AMORTIZATION PAYMENTS. NEW ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDING FOR ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS SHOULD BE AS UNBUREAUCRATIC AS POSSIBLE PREFERABLY WITH AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND ONE LIBERIAN MINISTER AS COSIGNATORIES.

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4. SINCE REFTEL A DIRECTS EMBASSY TO HOLD OFF BEGINNING RENEGOT-

IATION OF AGREEMENT UNTIL MAY, EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT DEPARTMENT AGREEABLE TO CONTINUANCE OF USECF/L AND ITS PROGRAMS UNTIL MID-1977, WHICH MEANS THAT NOT ONLY WILL THE GRANT OF SISTER LAVONNE ABTS BE RENEWED THROUGH JULY 1977, REFTEL C, BUT ALSO THAT USECF/L WILL PROCEED TO BRING THREE AMERICAN FULBRIGHT PROFESSORS TO LIBERIA IN JULY 1976 PLACING TWO AT UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA AND ONE AT CUTTINGTON COLLEGE. BOTH INSTITUTIONS WILL BE NOTIFIED LATER THIS YEAR BY THE USECF/L THAT 1976/77 WILL BE THE LAST YEAR THAT AMERICAN FULBRIGHT PROFESSORS WILL BE BROUGHT TO LIBERIA UNLESS AMENDED PORT OF MONROVIA AGREEMENTS PROVIDES FUNDS FOR CONTINUANCE OF AMERICAN FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR PROGRAM, WHICH SEEMS UNLIKELY. BECUASE OF SLOW PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOL CONCERNING FUTURE OF USECF/L AND PORT OF MONROVIA AGREEMENT, EMBASSY FEELS THAT TO TERMINATE WITHOUT WARNING THE FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR PROGRAM AT THIS LATE DATE WOULD DAMAGE ITS RELATIONS WITH BOTH UNIVERSITIES. BECAUSE OF NECESSITY FOR USECF/L TO NOTIFY AMERICAN FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR NOMINEES THIS MONTH, EMBASSY REQUEST DEPARTMENT CABLE CONCURRENCE ASAP WITH MEASURES OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH FOUR.  
BEAN

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